

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical scanning apparatus, comprising:
 - a light source generating a laser beam;
 - a deflector having a reflective surface arranged relative to the light source to deflect
5 the laser beam via the reflective surface in a light deflection direction;
 - a scanning lens arranged relative to the deflector to focus the deflected laser beam at a spot on a scanning surface to thereby perform optical scanning; and
 - an aperture located between the light source and the deflector, the aperture having a substantially square shape; wherein
10 the light source, the deflector and the scanning lens are located along an optical axis, and the light source is tilted relative to the optical axis by an angle of about 45°, and generates the laser beam such that the laser beam which is impinged on the reflective surface is light polarized in a direction between a direction that is parallel to the light deflection direction and a direction that is perpendicular to the light deflection direction.
- 15 2. The optical scanning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least two corners of the aperture are cut to form oblique angles relative to sides of the substantially square shaped aperture.
3. The optical scanning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein all four corners
20 of the aperture are cut to form oblique angles relative to sides of the substantially square shaped aperture.
4. The optical scanning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least two corners of the aperture are cut so as to have curved cut portions relative to sides of the substantially rectangular shaped aperture.
5. The optical scanning apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least two
25 corners of the aperture are cut to define linear cut portions relative to sides of the substantially rectangular shape aperture.
6. An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a light source generating a laser beam;

a deflector having a reflective surface arranged relative to the light source to deflect the laser beam via the reflective surface in a light deflection direction;

a scanning lens arranged relative to the deflector to focus the deflected laser beam at a spot on a scanning surface to thereby perform optical scanning; and

5 an aperture located between the light source and the deflector, the aperture having a substantially square shape; wherein

the light source, the deflector and the scanning lens are located along an optical axis and the light source is tilted relative to the optical axis by an angle of about 45° and generates the laser beam such that the laser beam which is impinged on the reflective surface is light
10 polarized in a direction between a direction that is parallel to the light deflection direction and a direction that is perpendicular to the light deflection direction.

7. A method of manufacturing an optical scanning apparatus comprising the steps of:

providing a light source generating a laser beam;

15 arranging a deflector having a reflective surface to deflect the laser beam via the reflective surface in a light deflection direction;

arranging a scanning lens to focus the deflected laser beam at a spot on a scanning surface to thereby perform optical scanning; and

20 arranging an aperture between the light source and the deflector, the aperture having a substantially square shape; wherein

the light source, the deflector and the scanning lens are located along an optical axis and the light source is tilted relative to the optical axis by an angle of about 45° and generates the laser beam such that the laser beam which is impinged on the reflective surface is light
25 polarized in a direction between a direction that is parallel to the light deflection direction and a direction that is perpendicular to the light deflection direction.